

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2145**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of

Victoria M. BELLOTTI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2145

Application No.: 09/683,532

Examiner: A. CHOUDHURY

Filed: January 16, 2002

Docket No.: 110143

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR INTEGRATING ELECTRONIC MAIL AND  
DISTRIBUTED NETWORKS INTO A WORKFLOW SYSTEM

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 19, 2007 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-22 and 25 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Implementation of a Workflow-based Web Application with an Electronic Signature Mechanism," by Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0133495 to Rienhoff Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Rienhoff"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claims 1 and 10, the Office Action concedes that Kim does not disclose that the recipient of the email message does not have access to the workflow system prior to receipt of the e-mail message. The Office Action relies on Rienhoff to remedy the shortfall.